GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:514
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
REPORTS ON AIR POLLUTION
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of reports by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and World Health Organisation (WHO) indicating high air pollution levels in cities;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken/proposes to undertake programmes/schemes to improve air quality in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details/other steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue, including creating of warning mechanisms?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Yes, sir. Government has taken a note of recent reports of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and World Health Organization (WHO) on air pollution levels in cities.

(b)&(c). The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in cities which interalia includes, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport in select cities, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, stringent source specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, expansion of metro train system, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets, implementation of city specific action plan in 16 cities, etc.

d) The CPCB has undertaken the task of introduction of Air Quality Index (AQI), a tool for public information on the status of ambient air quality including warning mechanism.